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France To Expel Soviets

BANNED UNION LEADER ARRESTED

Fighting In Council

Paris, Mar. 18.—France will expel a number of Soviet citizens who met last night to reconstitute the banned Union of Soviet Citizens, it was officially announced here tonight.

Hundreds of people from countries east of the "iron curtain" were questioned by French security police in a large-scale check-up of foreigners' activities in France in connection with the arrest of Professor Odinetz.

The French Ministry of the Interior declared today: "The French Government has discovered that the Union of Soviet Citizens, dissolved by a decree on Dec. 15, was reconstituted in secrecy, that its new directing committee met regularly in different places, and learned from the police the existence of the latest meeting.

On account of this breach of the law, the members of the directing committee, who were present at this meeting, were taken to the premises of the Ministry for interrogation.

The documents and the statements of the persons in question established beyond doubt the nature of the crime and the French Government has decided to proceed to the immediate expulsion of these persons.

"These persons have intimated their desire to return to the Soviet Union," the communiqué added.

FAMILIES MAY GO

"All facilities have been granted to their families to return with them, if they so wish."

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also publish a communiqué on the subject, it was learned.

The announcement followed the arrest of a group of Soviet citizens when French security police raided the house of Professor Dimitri Odinetz, former President of the Union of Soviet Citizens, and arrested the professor and a party of visitors.

M. Jules Moch, the French Minister of the Interior, tonight conferred with high police officials on the questioning of Professor Odinetz and the other arrested Soviet citizens.

The expulsion decision was taken directly by M. Moch after M. Georges Bidault, the French Foreign Minister, had been informed, officials of the Ministry of the Interior said.

(Continued on Page 4)

EDITORIAL

Why HK Feels Frustrated

THE visiting Minister of State for Colonial Affairs has only to read the so-called debate in the House of Lords in which the future of Hongkong was mentioned, to appreciate why this Colony suffers from a sense of frustration, and a growing feeling that, being geographically such a small place and so far away from Britain, we are not regarded by the Imperial Government as sufficiently important to worry itself about. Lord Mancroft's challenging proposition that the British Government should publicly declare its policy regarding the future of Hongkong was, he noted, completely ignored by Lord Hall who replied for the Government. Possibly to Lord Hall and others at Home, the future of the Colony is of no great moment, but here it is constantly being thought about and spoken of. It is here in Hongkong where one can spot the "colonial eyes" which Lord Mancroft quite correctly declares are being cast on the Colony. It is here where we can see and appreciate the subtle underground activities of those who would embarrass the local administration and attempt to force their hands—for one end only. In Hongkong the policy of expediency which is dictated in part by the Colonial Office and in part by the Foreign Office is cynically regarded as appeasement, and because, for the most part it is a negative policy, it is treated with a certain amount of contempt by the public. Whether or not the British

Government should publicly declare its policy concerning the future of Hongkong is a matter as much of politics and diplomacy as of opinion. Possibly the responsible Ministers are perfectly satisfied that this is a subject better left alone at this time; and we, ourselves, do not necessarily agree with Lord Mancroft's demand. The grievance is that the British Government so deliberately ignores this part of the debate when answering the opposition. The subject is casually brushed aside as though it had never been mentioned. Perhaps Lord Hall, as representing the Admiralty was in no position to make any reply about future policy vis-à-vis Hongkong; but he might at least have said so, and promised to bring it to the attention of the proper departments. It has been noticeable that in the House of Commons any questions dealing with Hongkong receive the most perfunctory replies. The subject of an airport has for so long produced nothing but the stock answer "the matter is under active consideration" that it recently inspired the classic supplementary question, "Can the Minister say when Government will pass from active consideration to passive action?" That, very neatly, expresses the feelings of Hongkong which has become wearied of the procrastination, euphemistically known as "active consideration" which appears to be applied to all of the Colony's affairs demanding Imperial Government action or decision.

ARAB LEAGUE DECISION

Belut, Mar. 18.—Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, the Secretary General of the Arab League, said tonight that at their meeting here, the League's Political Committee had reviewed the Security Council's request for Arab co-operation to ease the tension in Palestine and had come to the conclusion that the situation there did not constitute a threat to peace.

The Committee held, Abdul Rahman Azzam said, that it was not in the intentions of the Arab states to interfere in Palestine by force unless foreign governments attempted to implement the partition.

The Committee also thought it advisable for the Arab Higher Committee to give the United Nations Security Council information on Palestine.

M. Monnerville then suspended the meeting and ordered the Council Chamber to be cleared.—Reuter.

There's No Excuse
For Wasting Water

CAN WHAT YOU CAN

Preparing For War?



LEBANESE ARMOUR.—While reports of new violence from the Holy Land fill the front pages, scenes like this are becoming common through the Middle-East. Here armoured cars of the Lebanese army parade through the streets of Beirut while hundreds of spectators jam the sidewalks. Lebanon, an Arab state, is training its army to be ready for any emergency.

5 British Soldiers Killed By Arabs

Jerusalem, Mar. 18.—Five British soldiers and three Jews were killed in an Arab attack on a Jewish convoy near Haifa today, it was officially stated.

A British official of the Palestine Railways was today shot in the head and seriously injured by unknown gunmen in the German quarter of Haifa.

Five minutes later, a British soldier in a military truck was shot dead in the same area. British troops later picked up the area.—Reuter.

RUSSIA'S INTENTIONS

Lake Success, Mar. 18.—Faris Bey Al Khoury, the Syrian member of the United Nations Security Council, said tonight that Russia's main objectives in supporting Palestine partition are to wreck American-Arabian friendship and hinder the European recovery programme by interfering with the Arabian oil supply.

In a statement to Reuters, he said he could not understand why Russia should support partition so vigorously, because she had neither any love for the Jews nor any special interest in the establishment of a Zionist State.

He said he could only presume that Russia's secret aims were:

1.—To spoil the friendship between the Arabs and the United States.

2.—To hinder the supply of oil from the Middle East, which is essential to European recovery.

3.—To obtain a footing in the Middle East through any international military force, which would include Soviet contingents.

4.—To encourage Communism in the proposed Jewish State.—Reuter.

COAL MINE DISASTER

Belgrade, Mar. 18.—Dispatches to Belgrade newspapers on Thursday placed at 71 the number of miners killed in a coal mine explosion in the Istrian Peninsula.

An unknown number—at least 10—are missing, the reports said. The number of injured was placed at 90.

(Reports from Trieste on Wednesday night and dispatches to Rome newspapers on Thursday morning placed the death toll at the best of around 300. The accident occurred in the Racha mine on March 14.)

(A previous Belgrade dispatch quoted the official Yugoslav Agency Tanjug as saying that 171 persons were killed, among them some German war prisoners.)

Representatives of the Ministries of Mines and Labour left Belgrade on Thursday to investigate the disaster.

The Government ordered 50,000 dinars to be paid to each family which lost a member and an additional 3,000 for each surviving child.—Associated Press.

STOP PRESS

Hard Labour For Soldiers

Sentences were passed this morning by the Chief Justice, (Mr Justice E. H. Williams) at the criminal sessions on three soldiers and an Indian clerk who yesterday pleaded guilty to stealing 12 Sten guns.

Driver R. S. Boult was sentenced to four and a half years hard labour; Pte B. J. Duckett to four years;

L/Cpl H. Adamson to two and a half years; and the Indian clerk, Jaffer Mohammed, Alarukia to four years.

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QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m. TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



GALLANT BESS

MARSHALL THOMPSON · GEORGE TOBIAS

- At the QUEEN'S - LATEST METRO NEWS

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CRISIS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ...PICTURES OF THE WALSH TWINS...ETC!

A WEEKLY FEATURE RUSHED BY AIR!

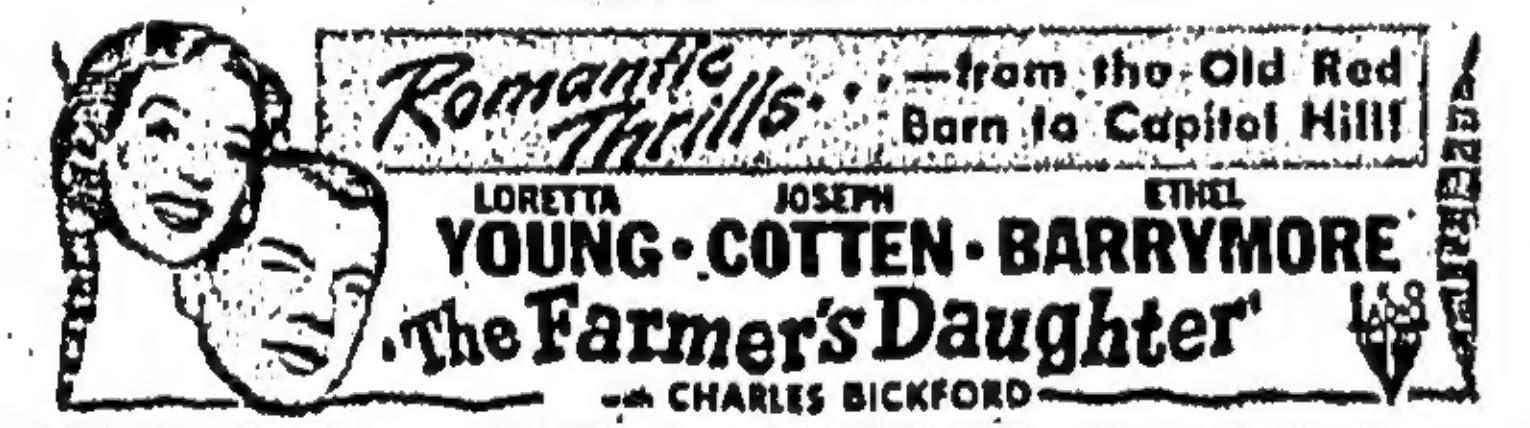
SHOWING TO-DAY KING'S At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.



with GEORGE CLEVELAND · WILLIAM CHING

ALSO LATEST FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS

NEXT CHANGE —



ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.20 P.M. A FILM WITH A MESSAGE THAT IS STILL TIMELY AND VITAL!



Commencing To-Morrow: "VARIETY GIRL"

TO-DAY & TO-MORROW CATHAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

IT'S SOMETHING NEW FROM BUD AND LOU!



NEXT CHANGE · Bing CROSBY · Dorothy LAMOUR · BOB HOPE in "ROAD TO UTOPIA"

THE NEW LINE-UP BY STRUBE



STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES ARE EXEMPT FROM LABOUR DIRECTION

IN PARLIAMENT:

MR DALTON IS BACK AGAIN

By Ernest Thurtle, M.P.

MR DALTON, invigorated as a result of his rest from Ministerial cares, is now back on the parliamentary scene.

Not the sort of man to be content to take things easy, he will, I imagine, be active in many directions, but for the time being mostly behind the scenes.

Until he gets office again, the impact of his vigorous intellect upon the Labour Party organisation, particularly on issues of foreign policy and finance, is likely to be much more pronounced.

I do not mean that he will necessarily be critical of Government policy. But, as at present he cannot have an outlet for his active mind in Cabinet discussion, he is likely to seek such an outlet within the party organisation.

This in turn may have its influence upon Government policy.

★ ★ ★

IN his book, "Speaking Frankly," Mr Byrnes, the American ex-Secretary of State, tells us that, after the atomic bomb had been made, there was considerable searching of heart as to whether the use of this terrible new weapon was morally justifiable.

Such scruples were finally overcome mainly by the argument that the use of the bomb would avoid the immense losses of American fighting men which would inevitably be incurred in a full-scale invasion of the Japanese mainland.

★ ★ ★

APPARENTLY no such qualms ever disturbed Marshal Stalin.

Made aware of the existence of the tremendous new agent of destruction by President Truman, at the end of a meeting during the Potsdam conference, the Marshal's reaction was direct and unequivocal.

He congratulated President Truman on the discovery of the new bomb, and hoped it would be used as soon as possible.

Within a fortnight the first bomb was dropped, and the horror of Hiroshima was made known to the world.

★ ★ ★

HOW is Parliament to exercise a check on the administrative efficiency of a nationalised industry?

This issue, already important, will become more so as other industries are nationalised.

Interest was focused on the point in connection with nationalised transport, when the Transport Minister declined to answer certain questions.

On the discovery of the new bomb, and hoped it would be used as soon as possible.

Within a fortnight the first bomb was dropped, and the horror of Hiroshima was made known to the world.

★ ★ ★

Wanted: a policy

THERE you have some of the

views of this Youth Parliament,

where the largest party is Socialist, next largest Com-

munist, and the smallest Tory.

Young Stanley is doing his lonely best to put the Tory case. At the first session he was backed by only four supporters. The day I went to St Pancras he had rallied round another 11.

Unless the older Conservatives show more enthusiasm and fix on a policy it is going to be hard for me to win over young people in time for the next election," says Stanley.

It is going to be very hard, and I would give them Stanley's last words to me as a warning:

"I am a Tory now," he says. "But my politics are not hide-bound. They will obviously change with the needs of the people."

Whichever way they change young Stanley is going places.

A division

BY this time the House had been in session for two hours, and Mr Haydn Davies was thinking about a cup of tea.

A division was forced, and four young tellers bowed to Mr Haydn Davies and reported that the St Pancras Youth Parliament agreed with the Royal Commission on the Press by 43 votes to 23.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

In passing

DISCOURAGED but pertinacious, Mr Colin Velvette continued to explain his ballet to the gentlemen from Filthians.

"The hunter," he said, "does not actua—" (a gleam in Kazbulah's eyes warned him just in time) "does not really kill the Queen of the Butterflies." "Honky a wond?" asked Ashura. "No," said Velvette. "It is symbolical, if you like." "Ho, we don't like it," said Rizamughan, "thank you, but if it is symbolical, wherefore the bowan-arrow?" "It's mine," said Velvette. "Yours, ho yes?" asked Ashura. "Mine," repeated Velvette. "M-i-m-e." "Who's he?" cried all three. "Listen," said Velvette. "It is like a fairy story, you see. The bow and arrow business is mine." "Ho yes, yours, and you give it to the hunter to slay the queen moth," said Kazbulah.

Ekchulah

I THINK," said Velvette, "if you might understand better if you saw rehearsal in progress, actually." Then came a great cry of delight, volleying and thundering, as the three Persians chanted, like some Eastern college cry, "Ekchulah! Ekchulah! Ekchulah! Long live manure, ho yes!" At that point a hairy stage manager, in a hairy brown suit, with a yellow tie covered with a pattern of red dogs, and a green shirt poked his head in at the door. He said, in a cold drawl, "One wonders why people have to keep on shouting manure." It's definitely worrying, Collin. We can hear it all over the building." The three Persians gazed at the intruder, and Rizamughan said, "He must be somblicial. Cannot we have a half-cutting?"

The final touch

A producer suggests that these Persians should be dressed up in taffeta and spats for the ballet. But what about adding three little round wickerwork hats?

NANCY Things Are Looking Up



By Ernie Bushmiller



Women
This Space Every Day
BEAUTY ARTS
By LOIS LEEDS.



Posed by Rosalind Russell for Lois Leeds.

Healthy hair is its own reward and it's so easy to manage!

HEALTHY HAIR!
Healthy hair is strong, full of life, lustrous and shining. The only way to bring beauty to dull, faded hair is to bring new health to the scalp. To glorify your hair, to make of it a shining Cap of Beauty, you must have a healthy scalp. Then you will have healthy and beautiful hair.

The growth of healthy hair is not just a matter of temperament or luck or heredity. Your mother may have had gorgeous, curly hair, and yours may be but wisps of straw!

Knowing the way in which Nature intended the hair to grow will help you in planning a home treatment to gain hair health and beauty. Every tiny bulb of hair is deeply imbedded in the scalp. This tiny bulb is a thing which draws its life from the nerve energy, from the quantity and quality of arterial blood which reaches it. It is, then, quite evident that any unusual, any unhealthy condition of the scalp; such as dandruff, clogged pores, bad circulation or reduced nerve vitality, will be almost immediately shown by the hair. Any illness, even a slight cold, will often make the hair dull and lifeless. Your physical condition is reflected by your hair.

Dandruff is due to a micro-organism which attacks the scalp. This germ results in a scale covering the scalp, this scale often becoming dry and powdery. The scalp often itches.

To treat this condition, make a careful selection of an ointment for use on the scalp. Part the hair in sections, apply a generous amount of the ointment to the scalp where you have parted it. Massage the ointment thoroughly into the scalp. Leave on overnight. Next morning, shampoo with warm water and a fine soap (cake) or a liquid with

WHEN shouting, hair-tearing, and beating have failed, what is a parent to do? In the Book of the Day* are the answers to 230 questions asked by problem parents about ordinary children. Here are samples:

**Why children
fight it out**

? My boy and girl, aged ten and eight, quarrel constantly. Ought I to interfere?

Sometimes an adult should interfere, not however, in the capacity of judge or policeman, but rather as an impartial but sympathetic guide in smoothing out difficulties. Airing angry feelings and disagreements and working out compromises are important in learning how to live with people.

If you try to suppress all family quarrels, you will only lead to more dangerous and unhealthy resentments.

? Our girl of five has been a problem since her little sister came. She is usually kind to the baby, but she has taken to slapping and kicking adults... Don't you think a good spanking would be in order?

LET her know that you still love her, even when she's naughty, but that you want to help her to be good. Actually your child really craves someone who can control her. She wants to be saved from the results of her own angry impulses. She wants to be good, and she wants a mother who stands firm and helps her. The child should, however, be permitted to blow off steam by talking about her jealousy.

? My five-year-old frequently hits or kicks or bites people—children and grown-ups—if they interfere with what he is doing.... What can I do about this?

HE MAY need more things to play with and more new experiences. Pounding balls or clay is a good substitute for pounding people.... It's a wise parent who keeps such a child busy and stimulated.

PARENTS' QUESTIONS (Golance, 10s. 6d.).

Minute Makeup
by GABRIELLE



Keep your chin line up! When sewing, reading, knitting, brace up that sagging chin line. Strap the chin with a bandage tied in a porky bow atop your head. This acts as a muscle bracer and aids in firming your chin line. It makes you hold up your head!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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No letter from your boy again this week—it's sure nice to know that he's doing so well!

Freedom Has A Price On The Fringe Of The Iron Curtain

Furth-im-Wald, on the German-Czech Frontier, via Frankfurt, Mar. 18.—Freedom carries many price tags in the shadows of this wooded, hilly borderland between Communist-dominated Czechoslovakia and Germany's American zone.

For 60 marks or a package of cigarettes, Germans have smuggled Czechs into the American zone, American officers in charge of this border said.

Another price of freedom is a bottle of whisky. Refugees now in Germany said one bottle will bribe a Russian sentry on the border be-

twixt Czechoslovakia and Russian-occupied Austria. From Austria refugees come to the American zone of Germany.

There are higher prices. Visitors of certain foreign countries still in Prague are asked as high as 10,000 crowns—U.S.\$200, officially—refugees said.

At least one man paid with his life. Racing across the border in a motor car, he smashed into a tree on this side. When found in the morning, his belongings had disappeared—looted by the same persons who live on, and pass over, this border today.

100,000 Refugees

Approximately 100,000 refugees have been counted by the United States border platoon which patrols the 50-mile frontier. Many, however, after through before being discovered or turning themselves in. It is reported that at least 650 have come to the American zone.

Border security has tightened, border police said. The day after Jan Masaryk's suicide, the crossings dropped about 50 percent. Previously, many as 60 crossed daily.

Five miles beyond the Czech border and no-man's-land, villages are peopled by some 6,000 armed men, the Americans said. Months ago, civilians were moved from that area, and it was transformed into a place for troop maneuvers. Before the crisis, one battalion of Czech border police controlled the entire frontier.

The SNB—security police—are back on the border today. They came first with the crisis and then were withdrawn a few miles. A day or two before Masaryk's suicide the Americans again glimpsed their green epaulets as they patrolled the border with police dogs.

Churchill's **Bridge**

Churchill's bridge is a game of cards, played with a standard 52-card deck. It is a variation of the British card game "Whist."

The object of the game is to win as many tricks as possible. The player with the most tricks at the end of the hand wins.

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1941 Telegrams Are Secret

London, Mar. 18.—The reason why the British Government felt it could not agree to the publication of telegrams exchanged between the British and Canadian Governments relating to the international situation in the Far East in 1941 was given in the House of Commons today. Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commonwealth Relations, said: "Such telegrams are framed on the basis that they will not be published, and the whole system of full and frank communication between His Majesty's Government would be prejudiced if telegrams of this nature had to be prepared on the basis that this rule might not eventually be observed."

Agreement had, he said, been given to the publication of telegrams relating to the dispatch of Canadian forces to Hongkong.—Reuter.

HAZARDOUS RESCUE BY SMALL PLANE

Peiping, Mar. 19.—James R. Stewart, 24, of Parkchester, New York, employee of the China Air Transport Company, who was rescued in a dramatic air-lift by a small plane from the Communist-surrounded town of Linsen, in South Shensi, told the United Press today the details of his hazardous undertaking and the heroism of the rescuing pilot, Eric Shilling.

Stewart, former Navy ensign, has been in China for a year studying Chinese under the GI Bill of Rights. He went to Linsen about a month ago at the CAT airfield manager. Shilling brought a small L-5 similar to a Piper Cub—down on Linsen parade ground amid a crackle of Communist guns.

Stewart said that the L-5 took off on dangerous, soggy ground. "I could hear Communist gunfire going on around us." He said the Reds also fired when the plane set down.

Attacked At Night

He said that Shilling packed him and a Chinese employee of the CAT in the back seat of the two-place plane and the craft wobbled and almost mired down during the take-off.

Stewart, who had been in Linsen a little more than a month, said the Reds captured Linsen's airfield on March 7, but had not been able to penetrate into the city proper, which permitted Shilling to set down his plane on the city parade ground. He said that Linsen was quiet in the daytime, but at night the Communists attacked with mortars, machine-guns and Communist guns.

Stewart left all his belongings behind, bringing out only a pencil and a book on "methods of Communist torture."

Disliked Americans

Describing the Red fighting tactics, Stewart said the Communists gave the natives hand grenades and drove them against Nationalist defences, shooting them from behind if they faltered.

He said: "A Communist prisoner told me that he disliked Americans because his leaders told them that Americans are bad. They said they liked Russians because their leaders told them that the Russians are helping them."

Stewart said the Reds were using Chinese, Japanese and Czech-made weapons. He said that he also saw three American-made mortar shells. The Nationalist morale in Linsen is good, the garrison is well stocked with food and is building pillbox fortifications, he said. Stewart estimated that 20,000 Reds are besieging the city.—United Press.

Verdoux Suit Thrown Out

Paris, Mar. 18.—The claim by a Paris bank clerk, M. Henri Verdoux, for 6,000,000 francs damages against the producers and distributors of the Charles Chaplin film, "Monsieur Verdoux," was dismissed by a Paris court today. Costs were awarded to the defendants.

The court held M. Verdoux's plea was ill-founded. He was not present in court when the judgment was given.

M. Verdoux claimed his reputation and his peace of mind and well-being had suffered through exhibition in Paris of the film, showing a man of his name as a murderer. He alleged six points in common with the central figure of the film: Christian name, surname, employment in a bank, being married, being the father of a boy of five, and being a specialist in financial matter.

The defence was that there was no resemblance between M. Verdoux and his screen namesake as the screen Verdoux was middle-aged with grey hair, while M. Verdoux was a young man with brown hair.

The conventional clause declaring all persons were fictitious had appeared at the beginning of each showing of the film.—Reuter.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA GRIPPED BY COLD TERROR

London, Mar. 18.—Mr. Richard Crossman, left-wing Labour Member of Parliament, who has just returned from Prague, said today that Czechoslovakia was gripped by a "very quiet cold terror," and he believed that the beginning of a counter-revolution was under way.

Mr. Crossman said Premier Gottwald's government "at the moment are using soft methods" but if there is one incident, there might be a complete crackdown."

In an interview published by the Evening Star, Mr. Crossman said he believed Premier Gottwald, by driving the opposition underground, was in fact creating a conspiracy which the Communists claimed to have frustrated in their seizure of power.

"I do not think there is a new setup yet," said Mr. Crossman, "but I am fairly confident it is the beginning of a revolution."

He likened the situation in Czechoslovakia to that in Germany in 1933-34, when the Nazis took power "by too undemocratic means."

"You don't have a revolution. You get power first in a coalition, then you eliminate the coalition."

Passionate Class Hatred

"This is a Communist coup by local Communists, and they are really tough fellows. The Russians were ostensibly not there."

"But that really means that you have a class war, with workers on one side and the middle classes on the other."

Mr. Crossman, who went to Prague and laid a wreath on the grave of the late Foreign Minister, M. Jan Masaryk, after the funeral, said that despite the feeling of terror, he found no evidence of concentration camps and believed there was little ill-treatment of the people.

"No responsible Czech politician thinks of war," he said, "but a number of Czech elements think it is the only way now."

"It is terrible. You have passionate class hatred, with the working class pretty solid behind the government. They are the victors and they are being played up all the time."

The middle classes are merely grumbling before they are turned into either sullen or active opponents of the regime. A number of people would be prepared to do anything."

Economic Crisis

Mr. Crossman said he believed Czechoslovakia's economic crisis contributed to the political crisis.

"UNRRA stopped and they had a drought. The result is they are much worse fed than six months ago, and they will be even worse fed in future. The Communists want a good explanation. Now they can good explanation. Now they can blame it on reactionaries."

He said he thought one Communist line would be to blame a "conspiracy by America to bring Czechoslovakia into the Western bloc."—United Press.

Vital Topics

The decision to meet in March already had been taken in February, when the three Premiers met in Stockholm in one of their regular conferences as leaders of the Social Democratic Parties of their countries, he said.

On Thursday they are again meeting as the heads of their parties. On Thursday night all of them will make public speeches at a meeting in the Stockholm Concert Hall, arranged by the Stockholm section of the Swedish Social Democratic Party.

Well-informed sources said that confidential discussions would "certainly" touch upon all vital topics of the day.

These included, they said, "the momentous declaration made by President Truman, the Brussels Pact, the Marshall Plan defence policy and neutrality."

They included, they said, "the momentous declaration made by President Truman, the Brussels Pact, the Marshall Plan defence policy and neutrality."

Any joint communication to Finland in view of Soviet pressure there was deemed rather improbable.

As the meeting was "an informal contact between Social Democratic leaders," it could not be expected to take any decisions, another informed source said.

"On the other hand," he added, "big deals are sometimes made at luncheon parties."—Associated Press.

MURDER ON HIGH SEAS

Winchester, Mar. 18.—James Camb, 30-year-old Glasgow ship steward, went on trial on Thursday accused of the high seas murder of a young London actress on Oct. 18. The prosecution contends that Camb strangled Miss Eileen (Gay) Gibson, 21, and pushed her body through a porthole of the liner Durban Castle into shark-infested African waters, 90 miles off Portuguese Guinea.

Camb claims that she died a natural death in his arms after they had been intimate in her cabin. He said he threw the body overboard because "I did not want to be found in such a compromising position."

The body has never been found. Miss Gibson was returning to England from Capetown, South Africa, where she had appeared in the play "Golden Boy."—Associated Press.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers

1. Vancouver Island, a part of British Columbia. 2. Leopold III. 3. Genesis. 4. Manuel Quezon. 5. General Joseph P. Stillwell. 6. Basington.

The conventional clause declaring all persons were fictitious had appeared at the beginning of each showing of the film.—Reuter.



FORRESTAL STRESSES U.S. FORCES NEED

Washington, Mar. 18.—Giving evidence today before the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Mr. James Forrestal, U.S. Secretary of Defence, said the United States must show conclusively by decisive action that it intends to hold its military strength ready "to keep the world at peace and free."

Urging legislation to carry out President Truman's recommendations yesterday for conscription and a preparedness programme, Mr. Forrestal told critics of mobilisation who claim

SPORT:

Favourite For Grand National

London, Mar. 18.—Thirteen-year-old Prince Regent, James V. Rank's Grand National entry, still retains the confidence of the British racing public.

Described by many as one of the greatest horses never to win Britain's premiere steeplechase, Prince Regent, who was favourite for the last two Nationals, was heavily backed to-day. In a matter of hours his price had fallen from 86 to 1 to 14 to 1.

Finishing fourth last year and third the year before, Prince Regent is topweight for the 102nd National, which is to be run at Aintree, Liverpool, on Saturday.—Associated Press.

SPRING CUP

London, Mar. 18.—Probable runners and jockeys for the Liverpool Spring Cup, running over one and a quarter miles at 3:10 p.m. at Liverpool pool tomorrow, are:

Diesel (C. Smirk), Stuart (T. Weston), Bridle Path (T. Burn), Hilbkin (M. Beeny), Dancing Flame (M. Jockey), Command Performance (C. Richards), Portmanake (E. Britt), Orient (Gordon Richards), Law Suit (E. Smith), Crusaders Horn (E. Mercer), Silver Pencil (W. Gilechrist), Bristol Fashion (J. Sime), Dissipation (A. Richardson).—Reuter.

SINGAPORE AT OLYMPICS

London, Mar. 18.—Singapore has been invited to compete in the Olympic games next summer, the organisation committee announced to-day.

The Singapore Olympic Committee was recently recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

Rumours informed the organisers that she would compete in 12 sports—athletics, rowing, basketball, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, wrestling, shooting, yachting.—Associated Press.

Parliament Surprise

Parliament, since the crisis completely dominated by Communists, produced a surprise today with the re-election of Josef David, conspicuous National Socialist, as president.

The Communists had the power to shell David with the slightest gesture. Decision to retain him in an office which, from a protocol point of view, makes him the second highest official in the Czechoslovak Government, is regarded by some observers as an effort to give some dignity to the remnants of the minority parties.

David, widely acquainted abroad and with many friends in Britain, belongs to the left group of his own party. He co-operated intimately with President Benes during the war and the years immediately following.

Six Lose Immunity

Parliament then voted unanimously, as expected, to strip six former members of their Parliamentary immunity. This action prepared the way for trials on charges which security authorities may decide to bring against them for opposing the will of the people."

Those who lost their immunity are Valdimir Kraljina, former Secretary of the National Socialist Party; Bohuslav Deci, arrested as he tried to escape from the country; Alois Cizek and Otto Horn, all National Socialists and two Slovak Democrats, Jan Urseny and Fedra Hodza.

Prague newspapers have reported that Kraljina and Cizek have managed to get out of the country.

An announcement was made in Parliament that resignations had been received from three members, Irena Riplka, Peter Zenkl and Prokop Drtina. Riplka, formerly Minister for Trade, was reported to have escaped. Drtina is still in a Prague hospital after a fall from a window of his flat. Zenkl served many years as a Lord Mayor of Prague.—Associated Press.

Arms Discovery

Arms and ammunition found in a house at Ruzne, near Prague, are believed to be intended for a Czechoslovak National Socialist rising, with Ruzne airfield as an objective, the Czechoslovak news agency reported today.

The Ministry of Interior said the arms were found in the house of a Slovak Mikulek, a coal merchant at Ruzne and a member of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party.—Reuter.

Police Stoned

Accra, Gold Coast, Mar. 18.—Police were stoned when removing roadblocks at Kumasi, 120 miles north of Accra, in now Gold Coast disturbances today.

The roadblocks were built during the night, and a large crowd, which had assembled yesterday, the curfew, were dispersed by tear-gas.

Chief of the Kumasi Divisional Council appealed to the police for help when hostile crowds met them as they assembled yesterday. Sixty-three people were arrested.

The disorders began at Kumasi on Monday with demonstrations to demand the release of the six arrested men for alleged incitement to riot in the "clash of an ex-service men's 'cost of living' protest at the beginning of the month, when many people were killed.—Reuter.

B. J. S.

Moscow Reaction To Brussels Awaited

London, Mar. 18.—A pause in which to consolidate the momentous plans launched yesterday in Brussels and Washington and to gauge the reaction of the Soviet Government is expected in diplomatic quarters in London before the Western Union powers or the United States take fresh measures to stem the spread of Communism.

On the reaction of the Soviet Government to yesterday's signature of the treaty of Brussels by the French, British and Benelux Governments and its blessing from Washington by President Truman will depend the future policy of the Western powers.

Opinion was divided among observers here today on whether Moscow would amend the current programme on the Cominform in the light of the rallying of the West, to which President Truman gave a more specifically anti-Communist slant than did the European Foreign Ministers at their Brussels ceremony.

Continued vigorous support for the Italian Communists in the election campaign preceding the polling on April 18 is, in any case, expected to remain a basic feature of Soviet policy.

The next steps taken by the Western powers are certain to be determined to a very great extent by the course which the Soviet Government now chooses to pursue.

If the moves in the West are not followed by a fresh diplomatic offensive from Moscow, there is unlikely to be any further sensational development outside the Soviet-dominated world.

Attention will be turned to consolidating the schemes already announced.

Further accessions to the Western Union into reality was a decision by the five Foreign Ministers to convene the Permanent Consultative Council here next week to discuss its own functions.

The Dutch Foreign Minister, Baron Von Boetticher, planned to return to the Hague today, and Mr. Ernest Bevin is to return to London tomorrow morning.

Monty's Visit

M. Georges Bidault, the French Foreign Minister, alighted back in Paris, said on arrival there today that he was "very satisfied with what had been accomplished."

Economic and defence planning are regarded as the most urgent tasks now, and the forthcoming visit of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, to Brussels, is expected to be the occasion for joint defence talks.

But the reports in Paris, that a joint Western Union military staff under Lord Montgomery has been decided upon, were described as "exaggerated" by a British delegation spokesman here today.

Lord Montgomery's visit, at the invitation of the Belgian Government, is primarily to inspect Belgian military establishments.—Reuter.

Foreign Affairs Debate

London, Mar. 18.—Britain, warmly welcoming the signing of the Brussels pact, will not hear Parliamentary views on it until a foreign affairs debate, which Mr. Herbert Morrison, leader of the House of Commons, promised the House to-day "in the not distant future."

A Labour Member, Mr. Mackay, asked for time for a discussion of a

BRITISH "PURGE" OF REDS

(Continued from Page 1)

take in the interests of public security. Nevertheless, as Members of the House of Commons, we must recognise that it raises large issues which probably would be clarified by Parliamentary discussion.

"Important executive action has been taken by the Government and it is for the Government to find the proper, adequate time for discussion."—United Press.

OUTWARD MAI

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m., restricted posts will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19 Closing Times By Air Bangkok, Ceylon, New Zealand, Karachi, Bahrain, Iraq, N.W. Africa, Johannesburg & Marseilles via Cairo, August 1. London, (Kowloon C.P.O.) 3 p.m. (G.P.O.) 3:30 p.m. Hong Kong, 3 p.m. Paris, 3:30 p.m. Amy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tsinling, Taiping, Canton, Chunksing, Foochow, Tainan and Swatow, 3:30 p.m. Closing Times By Sea &